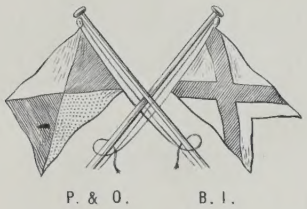


P. & O. S. N. Co.
S. S. Nellore
25th July 1919

My dear Sir Robert,

I am on my way back to India to take up my work there again. It has occurred to me that you might like to hear something from me as regards the work we have been doing at Ripon during the past six months.

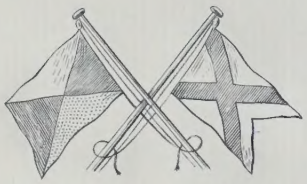
I may say that when I reached England last January and learned some of the difficulties that had to be faced I was not overly sanguine that any very useful work could be done in connection with the subjects, Zoology & Botany, which Col. Fox asked me to take up. The transfer of the

reserve battalions to Ripon had necessitated a change in the plans for starting University instruction just when the work was about to commence.

When I reached Ripon early in February conditions looked very unfavorable. We had no apparatus; I was assured microscopes were practically unprocurable in England; and lastly no space could be allotted for a biological laboratory owing to the difficulty experienced in persuading the military authorities to give release huts for instructional purposes.

I commenced lectures at once but could not commence practical work till two or three weeks later during which time I had to search for microscopes all over the country, collect materials for practical work

rd year Agriculture. I found the very great majority of the men exceptionally keen and earnest. This was especially the case with those who had been over in France. The only unsatisfactory men I had from the standpoint of earnestness were among a few short service men. To show indicate the keenness displayed I may tell you that Mr. Bissonette and I carried on night lectures for several weeks to help the men who had come over late and during this time I had an average attendance of between 40 and 50. I was informed by some of the men that more than one third of them had rented small rooms in the town as places for study as they found the sleeping huts very unsuitable for this purpose. Usually from



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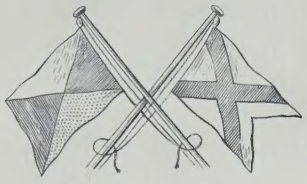
and fit up a laboratory. This last I had to do with my own hands & with the aid of the students as it was practically impossible to get labourers in Ripon.

After two or three weeks Colonel Forsyth sent me up an assistant in the person of Mr. Brissonette a graduate of Queen's a very nice chap and an exceptionally good teacher. She took over the botanical instruction and I confined myself to Zoology.

By the end of February things were going along much better than I expected would have been possible. We had fairly large classes in 2d Year Arts 1st Year Medicine and I stand



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4 to 6 men would rent a room together and use it as a common study. This I think speaks volumes for the spirit of the men.

With regard to the quality of the work done I do not care to say much. I should not care to assert that we were able to do as well for the men as if they had been able to work in fully equipped laboratories and class rooms. However my experience at Repton has confirmed me in the view that elaborate equipment is not necessary for good work. Taking into account the keenness and maturity of the men I think I am

safe in saying that at the close of our work those who were certified as having passed would compare favorably with an equal number of men at the same stage in a Canadian University

With regard to my personal feelings I may say that I consider it a privilege to have been able to help these men back to a more normal life. The work itself was a great pleasure to me as was also the opportunity of meeting the men themselves. I must thank you for putting me in the way of a most pleasant and I believe not unprofitable six months. With kind regards to Lady Falconer and yourself

Yours sincerely

Leslie B Lennan